Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Food - Drug Interactions

Does the food you eat affect the medicine you are taking?

Tetracycline (Achromycin® or Sumycin®)

What is this medicine used for?

To treat infections.

What foods should I watch out for if I take tetracycline?

•Milk and dairy products

If you want to drink milk or eat dairy products, you need to do it 2 hours before or 1 hour after taking tetracycline.



• Vitamins, antacids, or supplements, such as:

Magnesium SupplementsMulti-vitaminsCalcium SupplementsTums®Iron SupplementsMaalox®Zinc SupplementsMylanta®

Orange Juice with added calcium





If you take these vitamins, antacids, and/or supplements you need to do it 3 hours **before** or 3 hours **after** taking tetracycline.

What could happen if I take tetracycline and these dairy products, vitamins, antacids and/or supplements?

Diarrhea Nausea
Vomiting Skin rash